

Great Ayton Street Names

by Ian Pearce

Great Ayton's street name signs only appeared in 1950

18 February 1950 Darlington & Stockton Times

Street labels

“Great Ayton is undergoing the process of ‘labelling.’ In several parts of the village, neat white, plates with black lettering indicating the various localities have been affixed to dwelling houses and business premises.

The completion of the task will, to a great extent, eliminate the necessity of strangers inquiring the whereabouts of roads and streets away from High-street, the latter of which has been included in the scheme, and the confusion of Linden-road-with Linden-terrace or Linden-avenue will be made less acute.

Doubtless the numbering of houses will follow in the near future as a sequence to the ticketing of the village.

Middlesbrough would do well to follow the street names example.”

What do they look like?



Because our street signs only went up after 1950, most of our signs are pressed aluminium.

Recently these have given way to plastic.

This sign was delivered as a single long sign, then crudely sawn in two.

Many older street signs in other places are in cast iron.

This one is in Durham .



High Street



29 March 1935 Darlington & Stockton Times **GREAT AYTON - An Improvement**

“A decided and much-needed addition to the amenities of the village is being effected by the relaying of a stretch of the footpath in, the High-street with concrete flags. The old blue whinstone pavings had not only been worn to an uneven surface by the ice of successive generations of Aytonians, but they were disturbed during the process of installing the water mains. Several accidents of a minor character have resulted from pedestrians tripping over the projecting edges of the old pavings.”

School Lane



This is a new road into part of the Wimpey development of the Quaker Ayton School, which closed in 1997.

The school was founded as the North of England Agricultural School in 1841.



Old Mill Wynd

A new road, part of the Wimpey Ayton School development. It takes its name from the old mill, owned by Philip Hesleton in the eighteenth century. This operated as a cotton, corn and seed-crushing mill. It was sold by Philip Hesleton's sons as part of the Friends' School site. The mill machinery was sold and building converted for school use.

The use of the term “wynd” is questionable since it normally refers to the narrow alleys leading off the main streets in towns such as Stokesley and Yarm.



Eagle Street (now the lower end of Station Road)



Named after Eagle House, which was the dwelling part of Jeremiah Thistlethwaite's grocery and drapery shop



Door of Eagle House

For many years a stone eagle sat on the ledge by the door.

It was stolen and replaced.

This second eagle was also stolen but, understandably, not replaced.

A possible explanation of the origin of Eagle House will come later.

Coach Road

One of the many lost street names in the village, Coach Road gave access into the Friends' School from Station Road (opposite Harbottles).



East Parade – an almost lost street name





Linden Terrace

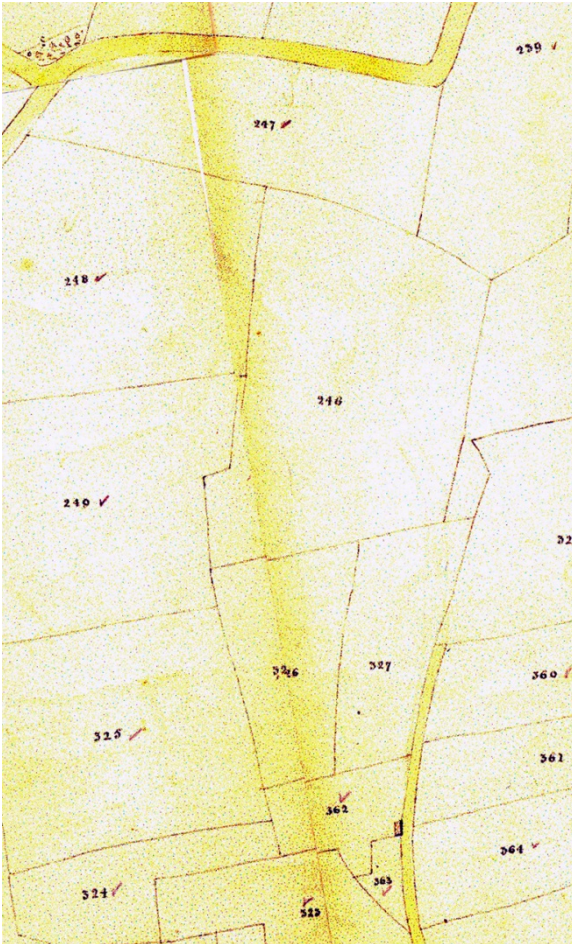
Another virtually forgotten street name.

Newton Road

The road with the most houses in Great Ayton, partly because its numbers cover small alley-ways off the main road.



Newton Road was originally Wind Lane or “Windy Lonnin”



Tithe Map of 1847



OS Map of 1856

In the mid-19th century, Wind Lane only went as far as the present Romany Road.

Within ten years it had been extended to join the road to Guisborough.

Newton Road then became George Street



The first buildings along Wind Lane were rather grand houses with clear views to the west. Wind Lane became George Street. Why is unclear; George IV had died in 1830. Could it possibly be from George Dixon's imposing house named 'Cliff Rigg'?

Frankfield Place and Pearsonville

Examples of the higgledy-piggledy development of this area of the village in response to the rapid increase in population towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Pearsonville was presumably named after Pearson's the Builders of Great Ayton.



The Hawthorns



14 October 1949, Darlington & Stockton Times
Great Ayton's hawthorn bush goes

Repairs to Romany and Monkabecque Roads had necessitated the removal of a much-loved hawthorn bush.

“... a genuine regret at the uprooting of a familiar object, which the repairs have necessitated. A hawthorn bush, a reminder of the days when Romany-road was a field, has borne a wealth of delightful pink blossom each year. The veneration in which the bush as held led the parish council rigorously to withhold their consent for its removal some years ago.

Whinstone View

It is possible to see the whinstone ridge of Cliff Rigg from some parts of the road.



Captain Cooks Way

It is fitting that there is one road named after James Cook, but where is the apostrophe?



California Grove

An excellent use of the name given to the area developed for housing whinstone miners. In 1901 Michael Heavisides described it as “the El Dorado of Great Ayton.



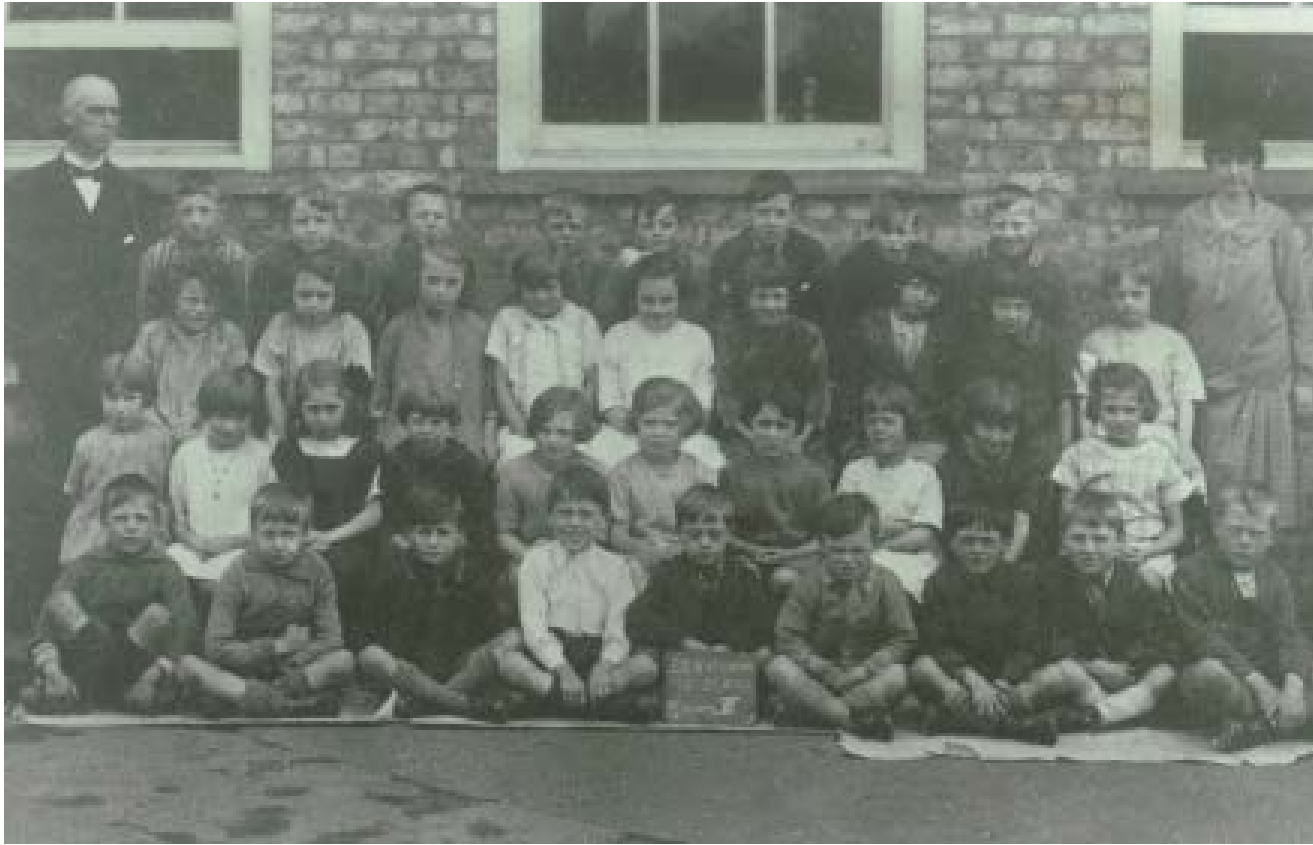
Cliffe Terrace, Edward Kitching Terrace, Frankfield Mews



Edward Kitching Terrace and Frankfield Mews are new developments.

Edward Kitching Terrace is an excellent name, coming from the Edward Kitching School.

Frankfield Mews is an example of the inappropriate names coming from property developers. Mews were the stabling and coach houses often built on a lane running behind large town houses, especially in London.



Edward Kitching School was built on land given by Alfred Edward Kitching of Ayton Firs. It was opened in 1908 and closed in the 1970s when the pupils transferred to Roseberry School.

The building was taken over by John Burdon Engineering, who later moved to the Stokesley Trading Estate. It was demolished in 2001.

Wheatlands

Built in the mid 1960s



Wheatlands was simply named by the Parish Council as land had grown wheat.

Cleveland's clay soils were well suited to growing wheat. The residents of Wheatlands and Roseberry will know all about clay soil.



Farm Garth

A new road on the site of the old Tile Sheds Farm.



An old access road leads from Newton Road to the south of the old Tile Sheds Farm. It is un-named and largely forgotten.



Roseberry Crescent and Roseberry Road

The view up Roseberry Crescent is dominated by the Topping, and the road is in the shape of a crescent.



Arthur Street and John Street – origins unknown



“Dump Corner”



On the bend at the start of Newton Road the beck goes under the road. In the proximity was a communal cess-pit.

There is a small access gate in the railings from where people drew water, perhaps surprisingly in view of the proximity of the cess-pit.



Skitterbeck became Park Rise



The beck is now culverted beneath the road and joins the River Leven just downstream of the waterfall.

Thief Lane – origin uncertain







Thomas Skottowe is well known for employing James Cook's father at Aireyholme and for providing young James's education at the Postgate School.

Thomas Skottowe is buried at All Saints' Church, where there is a memorial to him.

Baldock's Bank (Linden Avenue)



Sometimes erroneously called “Bulldog Bank”. It is the steep ascent at the start of Linden Avenue. Mr. Baldock was a North Riding Highways Engineer who lived half-way up the bank. He used to stop children sledging down the road in the snow.



At the Annual Ratepayers' Meeting held in March 1935, Mr. Baldock showed his concern for children's safety

“Mr. Frank Suggitt raised the question of a recreation ground for children.

The Chairman expressed the opinion that as the village was already in possession of two greens, the children would hardly appreciate a recreation ground. To properly equip and maintain such a ground would mean an addition to the already heavy rates.

Mr. Baldock, who supported Mr. Suggitt, said the High Green was hardly suitable for the playing of football and cricket, and moreover, it was dangerous for small children, bordering, as it does, the main road. The Low Green was too far away for children, whose homes were at the other end of the village.

(A Voice, ‘Bairns can't get on the low green for goats.’) (Laughter.)

Mr. Baldock thought a central recreation ground ought to be provided.”

Yarm Lane used to be King Street



Marwood School was built on the site of the old Crown Inn.

Bridge Street – an obvious name



Bridge Street

For reasons which are unclear, this part of Ayton was known as “Wapping” in the past. The Leven at Bridge Street hardly compares with the Thames!



Race Terrace – along the old mill race



The mill race started at the sluice gate by the top of the waterfall in the centre of the present-day village. It crossed over Easby Lane and ran along the south side of Race Terrace.

Traces of its course can still be seen in Suggitt's Field, in the grounds of Easby House, and in the front gardens of the houses on the south side of Race Terrace. In one of these gardens the bridge across the race remains.

The Cuit drawing from the 1780s shows James Cook's parents' cottage on Easby Lane with the mill race crossing the lane. There is a small wooden bridge for pedestrians and a ford for animals and carts.



The end house on Bridge Street is remarkably unchanged, as can be seen in the small picture above, although the Cook Cottage has been removed to Australia.



Mill Terrace

The mill race powered two mills. The East Mill was a corn mill, the west Mill was a seed-crushing mill. The white house shown below was built on the site of the East Mill after it had been demolished.



Marwood Drive

The first housing estate built in the village, in the early 1950s. Named after the Marwood family of Busby Hall, who took the Great Ayton tithes. The Rev George Marwood gave the village the vestry at All Saints church, the new Vicarage, the Marwood Grammar School and land for the allotments.



Angrove Close and Angrove Drive

Named after Ann Grove Hall, between Ayton and Stokesley, and scene of the celebrated murder. The hall was demolished and only the gateposts and the bridge over the Leven exist today, but in new locations.



Stokesley Manor gates
are from Ann Grove Hall



Wainstones Close and Wainstones Drive

Built by Bradley, then Wimpey, and finally Keble.



The Wainstones are a rock formation on the western edge of Hasty Bank, above Great Broughton. They are just visible from Easby Lane. With so many possible street names associated with Great Ayton, it is odd that such a distant feature was chosen.

Byemoor Avenue and Byemoor Close

Built by Wimpey. The last fairly large housing estate built in the village.



Named after Byemoor, a large house on Cross Lane,
which runs from Easby Lane to Little Ayton.



Goat Lane (now Easby Lane)

The slight ascent encountered on leaving the village was known as 'Half-penny Hill'. The Rev C V Collier, writing in 1896, said this was so named because a woman was found hanged on one of the wayside trees, with only a half-penny in her pocket.





Bradley's Terrace

Bought by George Bradley in 1903 to house his miners



South side built in the 1870s



North side built in 1909



Bradley's Whinstone

The Bradley brothers lived in Roseberry House and Tower House on Guisborough Road. They managed the Langbaugh Whinstone Quarry. They acquired Bradley's Terrace to house their workers.



Langbaurgh Close



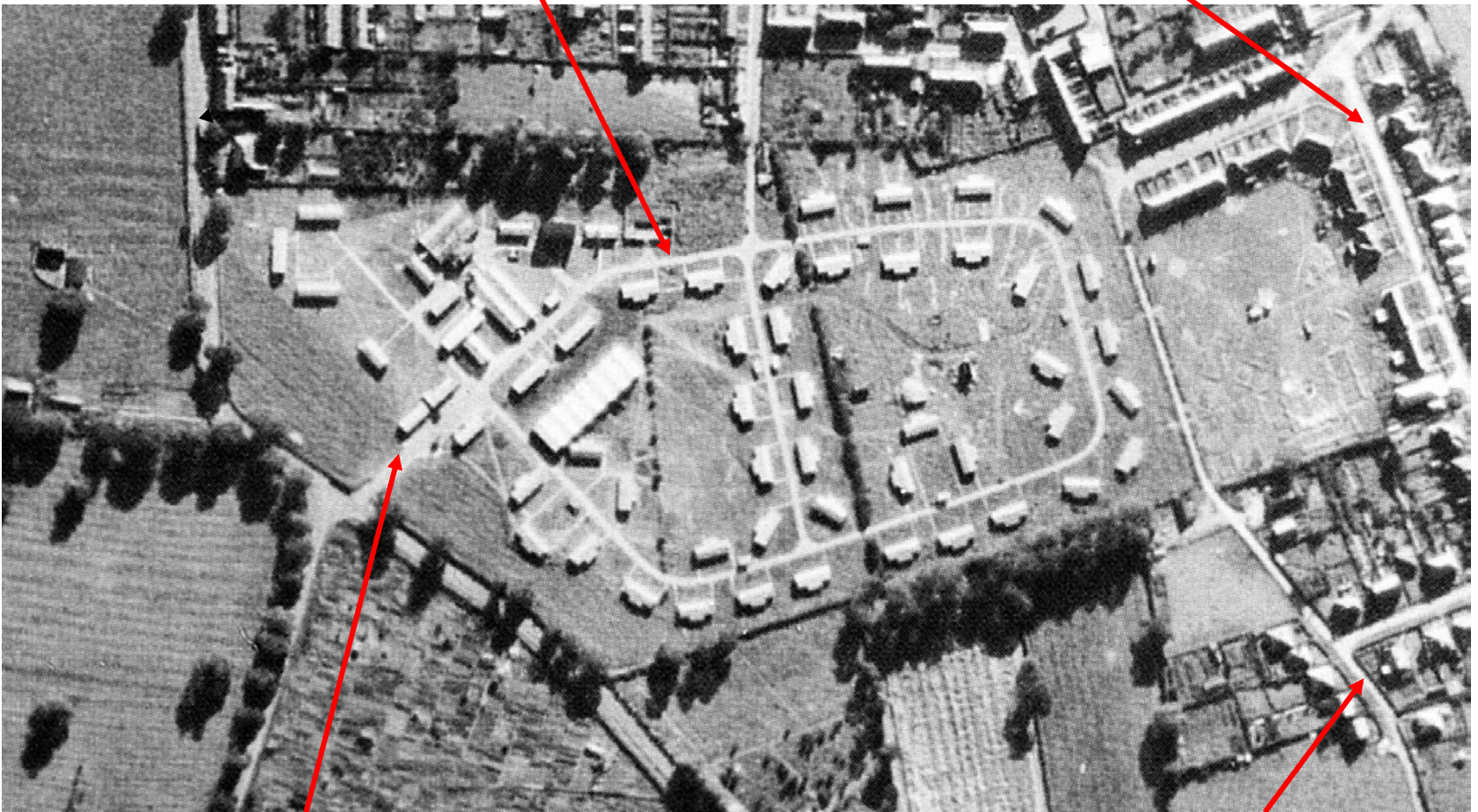
Langbaurgh Close was the entrance road to the WW2 Ayton Civil Defence Camp.

None of the street names of the houses built on the site recalls the camp



Whinstone View

Addison Road



Langbaugh Close

Linden Avenue

Langbaurgh is correctly pronounced and occasionally spelled as “Langbarf”.

It is an ancient name derived from the old English for “Long Hill”, describing the Cleveland Dyke or whinstone ridge. The whinstone ridge can clearly be seen in the view below from the summit of Roseberry Topping.



Jeremiah Thistlethwaite - Draper and Grocer



Jeremiah Thistlethwaite came to the village in 1857. In addition to establishing a grocery and drapery business, he bought Buck Bank Farm, the rising ground to the north of the lower end of the High Street.

Place names in Ayton from Jeremiah Thistlethwaite (our first property developer)

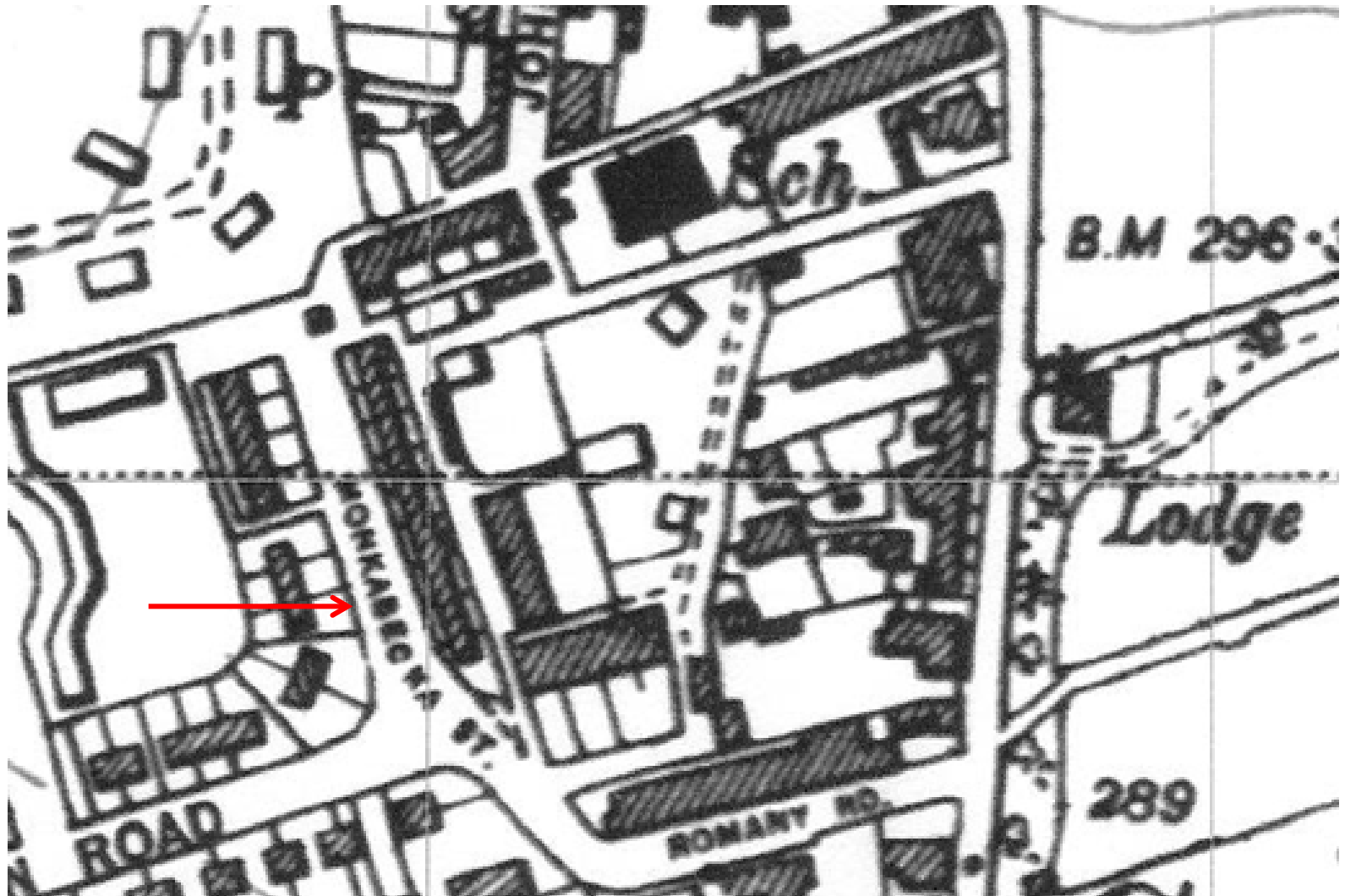
After farming the land for a few years, Jeremiah realised that the future lay in building houses rather than in farming. He named houses and streets after places in his native Dentdale:

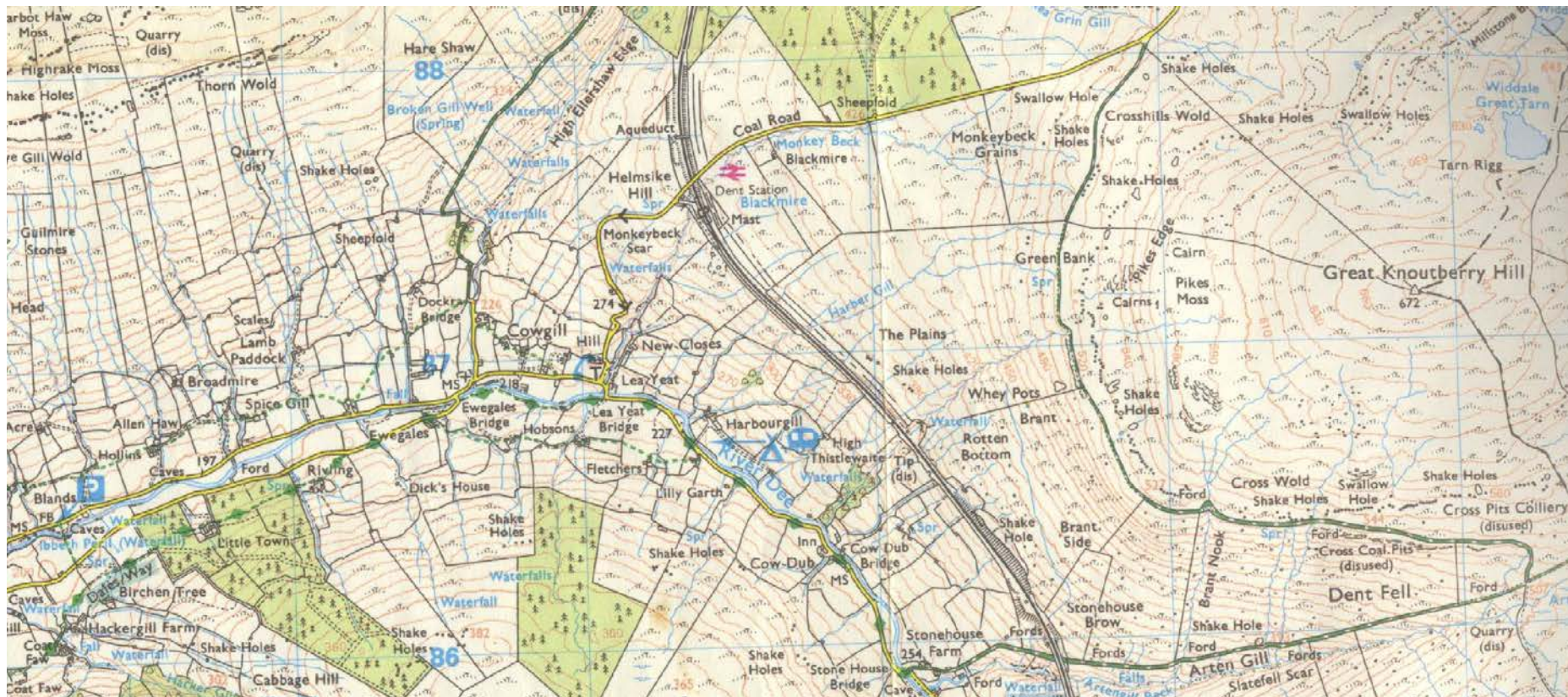
| | |
|--------------|---|
| Monkabeque | Now Romany Road |
| Harborgill | The house at foot of Station Road, later occupied by his son William Henry |
| Leayat House | Built for his sister Margaret, who had a tea-room on the High Street |
| Eagle House | Jeremiah's house on Station Road, possibly named after Jeremiah's birthplace. |



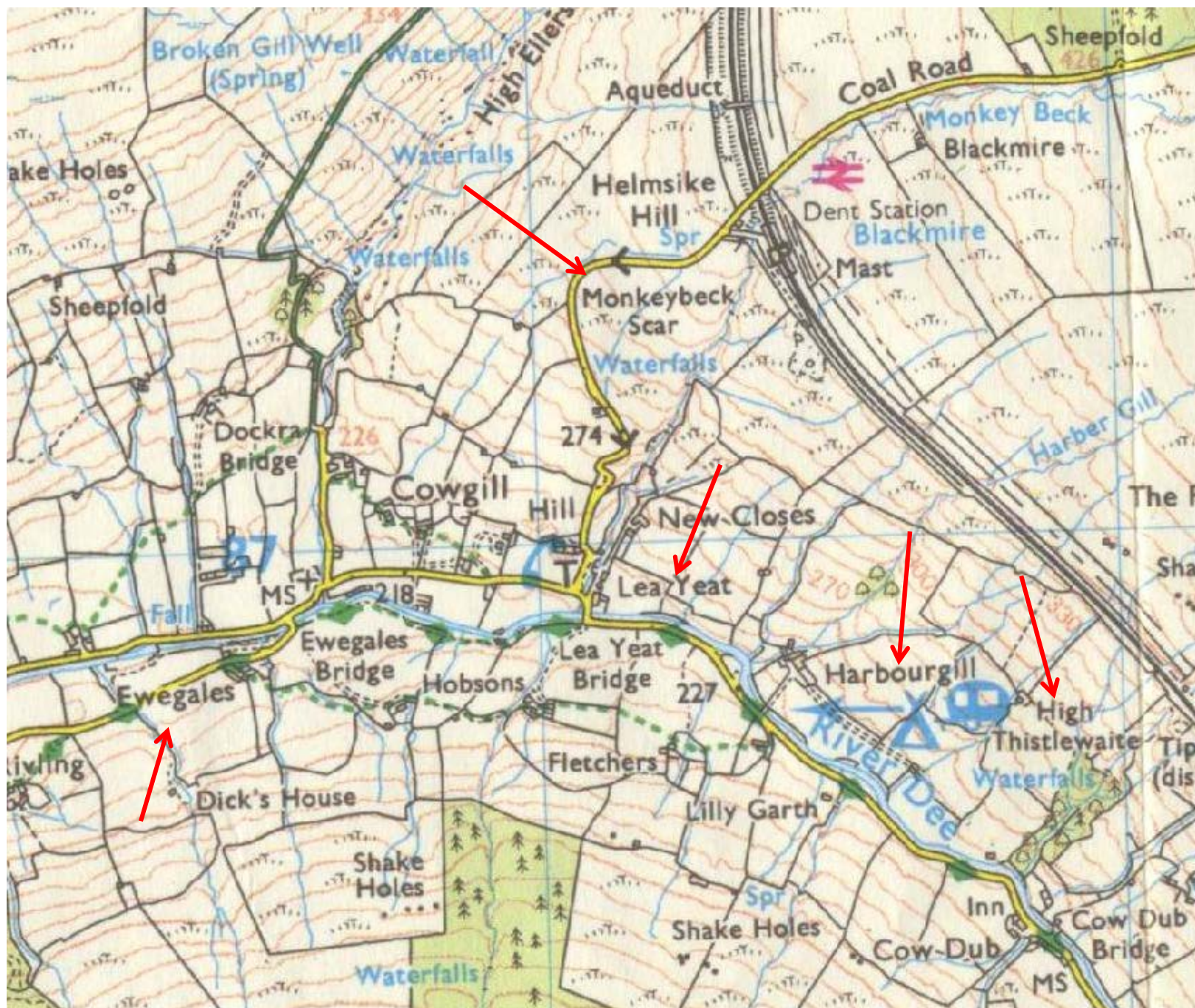
Jeremiah and Margaret Thistlethwaite

Monkabeque or Monkabecka Street





Upper Dentdale - ancestral home of the Thistlethwaites





Monkey Beck

This must be the origin of the strange name of Monkabeque.

Here the stream is near its source to the north of Dentdale.

The name has nothing to do with monkeys, but apparently comes from a local dialect term for hares.



Monkey Beck

where it flows under the Settle-Carlisle
Railway at Dent Station



Monkey Beck

where it joins the River Dee in
Dentdale at Lea Yeat



Harborgill – ancestral home of the Thistlethwaite family

Note the different spelling to the Great Ayton house on Station Road.



Harborgill

The track to the house crosses
the River Dee by this bridge



Harborgill - now the home of artist Pauline Lawton



Leayat House - built for Margaret Thistlethwaite



Leayat House



The bridge over the River Dee at Lea Yeat



The old Quaker Meeting House at Lea Yeat

now a B&B run by Margaret and Tony Playfoot





Lea Yeat House, Dentdale



Ewegales Bridge

and Johnny Akrigg's camping site





Ewegales Farm, Dentdale

Birthplace of Jeremiah Thistlethwaite and his sister Margaret. It seems quite possible that Eagle House was a corruption of 'Ewegales'.



Johnny Akrigg and Ginger

Johnny Akrigg and his cat are the present occupiers of Ewegales Farm (in 2010).

He said that “there’s no Thistlethwaites left around here”.

The End